



NATIONAL AQUARIUM.

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August 16, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing on behalf of the National Aquarium to express support for the City of Baltimore's TIGER II grant application for the Westport Waterfront Transit-Oriented Development (Westport Waterfront TOD). The Westport Waterfront TOD will provide multi-modal transportation infrastructure, including light rail, highway, pedestrian, bike and road, to support the development of 13,000 new jobs and 2,000 housing units and the rehabilitation of a 50 acre brownfield along Baltimore's Middle Branch waterfront.

The National Aquarium is a key stakeholder in the redevelopment of the Middle Branch as a regional center for sustainable, mixed-use, transit-oriented development. We are currently implementing a \$6.9 million restoration of an 8.5 acre brownfield site along the Middle Branch. When completed the remediated site will feature a 5 acre public and 3.5 acres for future development.

As a non-profit organization, the National Aquarium has played a lead role in restoring wetlands throughout the Chesapeake Bay, improving water quality and critical habitat. This past spring, through a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, we worked with area school children and Westport Development LLC to create new tidal wetlands at the Westport Waterfront TOD. We look forward to continuing these relationships to provide hands-on learning opportunities that help to restore the imperiled Middle Branch estuary.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Pittinger
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Jamie Kendrick, Baltimore City Department of Transportation